

5/13/70

Mr. Thomas J. Melley, Test. Dir.  
U.S. Secret Service  
Room 845, 1800 G St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20236

Dear Mr. Melley,

Thank you very much for your letter of the eleventh. Where it is direct and unequivocal I especially appreciate it.

With regard to the Ferrie documents, it may turn out that I have them. If there is a means by which I might be able to correlate Secret Service Control Numbers with Commission Document numbers, I think it might be easier for all of us.

With regard to the film, where you write so fortuitously, two questions remain. I hope you can either help me with them or direct me to where such information might be obtained.

The number of X-rays for which Mr. Kellerman signed a receipt coincide with those enumerated and described by the Attorney General's panel. This does not include, beyond any possibility of question, all the X-rays taken. If you desire further information on this I will be happy to supply it. What I seek to learn relates to these missing X-rays, how they left the hospital (the Navy assures me it got rid of everything, even where regulations required otherwise), with whom, to whom, what happened to them and where they now are.

The photographs were delivered to the Secret Service exposed but undeveloped. I hope it is not presuming too much to presume the Secret Service has a record of what it then did with these exposed film. I take your statement, "we have no record of the processing of the film" to include that the Secret Service did not process it or did not have it processed. If I do not hear further from you on this (and I have no desire to cause you unnecessary letter writing), I will assume this to be correct. So, I ask, do you know who did process this film, whether or not you have a record of the processing? While I would prefer not to be put to a laborious tracing of the film, I am prepared to do this if necessary. If you cannot or feel you should not (which I can understand if you do) tell me what you know about it, you can tell me to whom you delivered it. As we both know, you also had some of it in your possession after processing, and you should know its source. From my meeting with you I have the impression that you do not personally want any such clouds to remain. I hope you can find it impossible to help me dispell them.

In your interest and that of the Secret Service, I take a liberty I trust you will not misunderstand in pointing out where the record now stands on the X-rays and the possible interpretations, now and in history: the Secret Service had possession of them to the time of the memorandum of transfer; some of them have disappeared; there is unexplained damage. I do not tell you this

as any subtle accusation. But please believe me, other X-rays were required to be taken, were ordered to be taken, were taken, and you had two agents there who heard and saw this. The panel report is not helpful against any inference that might be drawn against the Secret Service, for it describes the listed X-rays and not one of those to which I refer is included.

If you can help with this problem, I think it will serve every proper interest.

My yesterday's phone calls were to let you know I have received nothing further from the archives. They have not responded to my written inquiry either. I have been delayed on the memorandum of transfer for almost 16 months, more than two months since you elected to make a copy available to me only through the National Archives, which is now electing to suppress it. I hope you will understand my feeling, that I have been more than patient, that I have tried to be as accomodating to every interest as possible, even when this was against what I regard as my personal interest and higher interests I hope I serve. I cannot, in good conscience, postpone what I have already long held in abeyance. This is further complicated by a special interpretation of the law conveyed to me by Mr. Relapp. While I regard it as invalid, I cannot ignore it, for he has conveyed the current official interpretation to me. It is not consistent with page 24 of the Attorney General's memorandum of this law. When you choose, as the agency of paramount interest, to make this available to me only through the National Archives and they decide, I believe in an open affront to the law and conspicuous violation of the executive order, to suppress it, what choices remain to me?

If I have regrets, I also have obligations I cannot and will not shun.

Sincerely,

Harold Weirberg